



Tips for Troop/Group Leaders

We encourage you to bring the girls into this decision-making process as much as possible.

We recommend that you hold a group meeting using a conference call or virtual meeting service and try to come to a group consensus.

Recognizing that girls may have a variety of strong opinions, and are likely experiencing high levels of stress and worry right now, check out these suggestions for facilitating respectful conversations.

Information to collect before the discussion (girls may be able to research/collect this information and report out to the group before the meeting, so everyone can digest the facts before you meet):

- What payments might you already have made (flights, activity reservations), and are they refundable?
- If you are planning to travel with a tour provider, ask them: what are your options if the group would like to reschedule or cancel the trip, or if the trip has to be cancelled by the provider?
- What is the current COVID-19 situation in the location to which you plan to travel?

To discuss at your meeting:

- Recognize that this may be a difficult conversation. The above tips on respectful conversation may be useful, as well as this article on talking to girls about coronavirus.
- Acknowledge that postponing or changing the trip might be an opportunity to do something new and exciting.
- Discuss: is there a specific date by which we must decide whether or not to proceed with the trip? This date might be based on

payments/refund policies you have confirmed, or other logistics you'd have to organize, like passports or visas*. The date could also just be a date that the group feels comfortable setting.

- If our trip is going to move forward or be rescheduled, should we budget for trip interruption/cancellation insurance? (Note: most trip interruption/cancellation policies do not include pandemic coverage. Look for a “cancel for any reason” policy, but know that these are likely to be expensive and have specific requirements about WHEN you must purchase them.)
- If we cannot travel on our scheduled dates, can we reschedule our trip, and if so, for when?
 - ❖ Are there advantages to rescheduling our trip further out (e.g. next year?) For example, can we do some additional money-earning through Fall Product and Cookie Program to extend the trip or experience additional activities? (For more ideas on planning your trip, check out The Girl Scout Guide to U.S. Travel or the Global Travel Toolkit.)

*Note: effective 3/20, the U.S. Department of State is not issuing new passports except in cases of life or death emergency. It is not known when service will resume, and significant delays should be expected at that time. If your planned travel required visas, most countries are not processing visas at this time, and wait times may be significant when service resumes.